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A
MEMORIAL
OF THE
MEDICAL COMMITTEE,

ADDRESSED TO THE

Inhabitants of the City of Norwich,
AND OF THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK,
IN SUPPORT OF A PLAN

FOR THE EXTINCTION

OF THE

S M A L L P O X,

BY A

General Inoculation

FOR THE

C O W P O X.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,

A Copy of the Resolutions

PASSED AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE INHABI-
TANTS OF NORWICH,

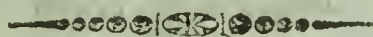
HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 29th, 1805.

21899



A

MEMORIAL.



IN this age of mutual charity and benevolence, any address, from any class of men, in behalf of their fellow creatures, daily suffering from a dangerous and loathsome disease, might be thought unnecessary by superficial observers. It is, however, a painful reflection, that this is not the case: for the constant existence of the casual Small Pox, in the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and its increase, during the last few months, in this city and county, afford an ample proof, that it is an evil of great extent, not only requiring the serious attention of an enlightened legislature, but more particularly appealing to the judgment and feeling of such persons, the object of whose duty and professional employment is the prevention and removal of disease. In speaking of the nature of casual Small Pox, it may with truth be observed, that it has been the scourge of human nature, for many centuries, and that it has surpassed every other disease in virulence and devastation: even the Plague itself, whose very name spreads terror through the world, yielding to it in the

mortality and loss of human life which it occasions, although armed with the power of attacking the same individual more than once. The reason of this greater mortality from Small Pox than Plague, or any other disease, will readily occur to the thinking mind; the ravages of the Plague are softened and restricted by season, and receive limitation from soil and climate; but no controul of this nature arrests the progress of Small Pox, its baneful influence existing at all times and seasons, and visiting every soil and every climate: so that it may be emphatically termed, a general and perpetual Plague. That this character, however dreadful, of Small Pox is true, we need only recur to the bills of mortality, where an account of the deaths arising from both diseases is given, and from them it appears, that the deaths from Plague within the London bills, during a century, viz. from 1601 to 1701 inclusive, were 188,571, but from 1701 to 1801 inclusive, it appears, that in a century, at least 250,000 persons have perished of this fatal disease, the average of deaths being, in the same bills, considerably more than 2000 a year. And we may with safety presume, that a similar ratio of the mortality of Small Pox and Plague obtained, during the same period, in those parts of the kingdom, unnoticed by the London bills.

But this statement taken from records, warped by no theory, and subservient to no speculation, shews only the immediate or direct mortality of Small Pox, and
affords

affords us no clue to estimate the morbid effects, which it exerts upon the human frame, in producing death more remotely, or by the intervention of other diseases ; such as its power of forming scrophula, or calling into action its latent seeds the most fertile cause of consumption, a disease too fatal, and too general, in the British isles. These indirect effects of Small Pox, in producing death, or entailing upon mankind other diseases, as permanent weakness of body, diminished strength of limb, loss or defect of sense, as blindness and deafness, can only be accurately known to medical men, whose daily practice brings them acquainted with the victims of Small Pox, whether from its direct or remote influence. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the generous and enlightened should, for a long period, have been employed in inventing means adequate to the resistance and suppression of so great an evil to society as Small Pox ; and we find, so long ago as the beginning of the last century, about 1722, a method of communicating this disease, by inoculation, was brought to this kingdom, and which certainly disarmed it of its danger, in a very great degree. Humanity received this discovery with eagerness, and reason augured from it the greatest good ; and it was thought, that human nature would no longer be the victim of so malignant a disease. It appears that these hopes were too sanguine, for history informs us that this mode of giving the disease by inoculation, was at first partially received, and of course but slowly practised ; and that after a lapse of a few years, it became

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more general among the higher orders of society, and institutions were formed in the metropolis, and in other parts of the kingdom, for the gratuitous inoculation of the lower.—It was hoped, by these salutary proceedings, not only, that great restraint would be put upon the progress of a disease, destroying, in the first fifteen years of life, more than the combined power of all other diseases, but that ultimately the extinction of it would be effected. This goodly prospect so far from being realized has been wholly darkened by some melancholy facts, which inquiry has established; and from which it appears that more deaths have taken place since the practice of inoculation than before; an effect which is only to be ascribed to the practice of inoculation among the higher orders, keeping up the casual Small Pox among the lower, in a great degree;—for compared with casual Small Pox, the inoculated may be said to be almost free from danger; the proportion of deaths from the inoculated being only one in three hundred, whereas it appears, from the casual Small Pox, at a moderate calculation, about one in six falls a victim to the disease. It was soon discovered, that, to remedy these mischievous effects of partial inoculation, and to protect human nature from the casual Small Pox, it was necessary to extend the practice of inoculation generally, or, more strictly speaking, universally—and it has been the aim of the first medical and political characters to inculcate the necessity of substituting universally the inoculated, for the natural Small Pox.—It might have been supposed that a measure dictated by reason

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and common sense, and by which the fatality of Small Pox might have been so greatly abridged, would have met with little difficulty in the execution—but these humane exertions have failed altogether, as within the last few years the mortality from Small Pox has been annually increasing; for it appears that in the first thirty years of the eighteenth century, before the effects of inoculation could be shewn, in every 1000 deaths, the proportion arising from Small Pox amounted only to 74, but in the last thirty years of that century, the deaths from Small Pox amounted to 95 in 1000. It is our opinion, that this failure, in extending generally the inoculation of Small Pox, is not so much to be ascribed to the prejudices of the poor, as to a supineness of character respecting disease, or insensibility to their own safety, the necessary attributes of poverty, or of minds whose exertion is unceasingly directed to procuring daily sustenance for themselves and families. This is evinced by the readiness with which the poor, when called upon, submit to parochial inoculation.

But, whatever melancholy impressions, these failures may have made upon the minds of medical men or others, they have been greatly removed, by a new æra in medicine, commencing with the discovery of Cow Pox Inoculation, by Dr. Jenner, as a preventive of Small Pox. A discovery which should be received and rewarded, not only by individual, but by national, gratitude. In this discovery, as far as the experiment has been made, there is reason to believe, that he has afforded

forded mankind a complete antidote, a certain protection against Small Pox, and has, probably, given them the means of extinguishing the Small Pox altogether. In giving our suffrage to this discovery, and to the application of it, it is our wish to impress upon the minds of the inhabitants of this city and county, our thorough conviction of its safety, and of its efficacy, when duly employed in preventing Small Pox—that we consider its action upon the human frame, the most mild and innocent, never proving fatal, and requiring no assistance from internal medicine—and lastly, that it is not contagious—and on these accounts, it requires no suspension of intercourse or industry, among the different members of society. And as far as our experience has gone, the Cow Pox never calls forth or is followed by any other disease, such as the evil, general disability of body or loss or imperfection of any of the senses. In addition to these facts, we wish further to remark, that in our experience during the last five or six years, we have never witnessed an instance of a person receiving the Small Pox, after having been duly and attentively subjected by inoculation to the Cow Pox; and we are of opinion, that the numbers which have been inoculated for it, in the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, (not to mention the other parts of the world) for the last five or six years, afford an ample testimony, an incontrovertible experiment, of its preventive power; not knowing any analogy of action, or law of the animal œconomy, by which it is rendered doubtful, that the preventive effects of Cow Pox, upon the human body,

after

after being exerted, for four or five years, should not continue to be exerted through life. And that this is the fact is proved by many cases on record, of persons receiving the disease from the cow, in early years, and never afterwards, through a long life, taking the Small Pox, although exposed to its action. With this conviction, we are called upon as friends of science and humanity, to recommend to the inhabitants of this city and its hamlets, the adoption of the general Cow Pox Inoculation proposed at the General Meeting of the Inhabitants of this city, on Monday last, July 29th.

That this recommendation may receive every assistance that a candid and impartial inquiry can give it, we shall briefly examine the force of the objections brought against Cow Pox inoculation, and draw a parallel between its effects and the effects of inoculated Small Pox upon the human body.—It is admitted on all hands, that the Cow Pox is never fatal, whereas in the inoculated Small Pox, one in 300 perishes; a circumstance of no trifling consideration. It is asserted that Cow Pox is not, universally, a security against Small Pox, there being instances alledged of persons taking the Small Pox, after having been inoculated for the Cow Pox. To give this argument its full force, let us admit all the alledged cases to be true, and then proceed to ascertain the proportion they bear to the whole number of persons who have been inoculated for the Cow Pox.—From this inquiry it appears, that of 250,000 persons, who have been inoculated for the Cow Pox, only 50 persons have been alledged

ledged to have suffered from subsequent Small Pox; thus, even in this view, the Cow Pox is highly to be preferred to the Small Pox, as, from this estimate, *only one person in 5000 is liable to Small Pox, whereas in inoculated Small Pox, it is admitted, that one person in 300 perishes.*—But a more minute investigation has shewn, that of these fifty alledged cases, only ten have been substantiated by evidence admissible and adequate; and that it is probable, among these ten cases some deception or mistake may have taken place, on the same grounds, as in some of the asserted cases of Small Pox subsequent to Small Pox, and in which the Chicken Pox has been taken for Small Pox.—Admitting, however, these ten cases to be established, the conclusion from such admission strongly proves the superior advantages of Cow Pox inoculation; as in that case, instead of one person in 5000, only one person in 25000 would be liable to Small Pox. And farther supposing in the 250,000 persons inoculated for the Cow Pox, that ten of them (as asserted) should be liable to Small Pox, and should actually take it, and in the casual way, and that of these ten one in five should die, which is a greater proportion than really obtains, it would then appear, that of 250,000 persons inoculated for the Cow Pox, only two persons would have died, and those from subsequent Small Pox; whereas, the deaths from the same number of persons (250,000) inoculated for Small Pox (taking the received proportion of one in 300), would be about 834.—Thus it is proved, that the fatality of Small Pox inoculation, compared with that of persons taking the Small Pox in
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the casual way, subsequent to the Cow Pox, is, as near as may be, 834 to 2; a fact at once strongly exhibiting the superior advantages and mildness of the Cow Pox, when compared with Small Pox.

With this fact we shall conclude our remarks, trusting, that enough has been said to incite the inhabitants of this city, to adopt the proposed plan of general Cow Pox inoculation, and that the poorer classes of society will, with gratitude, listen to these friendly counsels, and practise a plan so necessary to their safety :—and that the Court of Guardians of the Poor, the Clergy, and leading Inhabitants of this City, will assist and promote measures so beneficent and salutary, not only by their influence but by their example, by discouraging, on the one hand, the pernicious practice of inoculating for the Small Pox, and, on the other, advancing, by their utmost endeavour, the adoption of the Cow Pox.—And for the same reason must we appeal to the Ministers, to the Parish Officers and leading men of the several parishes in this County, for their co-operation, in discouraging the inoculation of the Small Pox, and in adopting that for the Cow Pox; knowing as we do, that the characters mentioned, have with parental attention, and from the best motives, encouraged every few years, in their several parishes, a general inoculation for the Small Pox, a practice eventually highly pernicious, as, at the same time that it gives security to the parishes inoculated, it carries danger and death to the adjoining parishes, in which inoculation has not taken place.

And

And as experience has shewn the little progress which has been made at all times, by the Small Pox inoculation, among the poor when left to themselves, and unsolicited to apply it in practice; a fact established beyond a doubt, by the reflection that only the small number of 25,000 persons have been inoculated during the last forty years of the last century, at the Inoculating Hospital, in London, a very extensive institution;—we therefore recommend that the children of the poor, or other persons, who have not had either the Small Pox or the Cow Pox, be once or twice a year, or occasionally, inoculated at their own houses, a measure necessary to render permanent the good effects of a general Cow Pox inoculation, in extinguishing the Small Pox. We think, moreover, in this universal Cow Pox inoculation, it will be prudent for a time, as there is frequently no visible constitutional disturbance of the system, denoting its efficient agency, that the part inoculated should be submitted to the inspection of some medical man, or to some person conversant in the practice; by these means mistakes may be prevented, prejudicial to the individual, and to the extension of the Cow Pox inoculation; and should hereafter any solitary case of Small Pox arise, from any secret or unknown source, it is hoped that all intercourse will be stopped immediately, between persons so affected, and such as are liable to the disease.

That these hopes are not too sanguine, the present state of Vienna, the metropolis of Germany, evinces; for in that city, containing a population of 254,000, after

after a general Cow Pox inoculation, only two persons have died of Small Pox, during the year 1804.

By enforcing these measures, we shall soon see the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland rival the other States of Europe, not only in religion, science, and morals, but in consulting the safety, and securing the lives, of our fellow creatures, by the extinction of the Small Pox—and that our commerce will no longer be charged with carrying the seeds of death and destruction to distant quarters of the globe, at the same time that it conveys the products of our industry, and the arts of civilized life.

(SIGNED)

RICH. LUBBOCK
WARNER WRIGHT
EDWARD RIGBY
P. M. MARTINEAU
WM. BACK
JAMES KEYMER

JAMES ROBINSON
WM. DALRYMPLE
WM. FELL RAND
C. W. STARKEY
SAM. S. DEACON

Norwich.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of this City; convened by the Mayor, held at the Guildhall, the 29th day of July, 1805,

EDW. RIGBY, Esq. MAYOR, in the Chair:

This day the Committee appointed at the last Meeting to consider of the best Means to put a stop to the Progress of the Small-Pox at this time, and of preventing its Introduction into the Town in future, made the following Report:—

At a Meeting of the Medical Committee appointed by the Meeting of the Inhabitants of this City, held at the Guildhall, on July the 16th, 1805, for the Purpose of concerting Measures for the Extermination of Small Pox,

RESOLVED—1st. That it is the recommendation of this Committee, that a Universal Inoculation of Cow Pox should take place immediately in this City and its Hamlets—a measure necessary to the Extinction of Small Pox.

2d. That Small Pox Inoculation should be discouraged.

3d. That a Return be made of all the Inhabitants of this City and Hamlets, who have not had either the Small Pox or the Cow Pox, and that to this end the assistance of the Clergy, Churchwardens, and Principal Inhabitants of the several Parishes be requested.

4th. That

4th. That the active co-operation of the Court of Guardians would essentially promote this important object.

5th. That to render permanent these salutary measures, a general Inoculation of Cow Pox should also take place at stated intervals, not less frequently than twice in the year; and that it would greatly facilitate this purpose, if the Ministers of the several Congregations make a weekly return of the Names and Places of Abode of the Children baptized.

6th. That on the present occasion, we, as medical men, are individually ready to Inoculate for Cow Pox the Poor of this City and Hamlets at their own habitations.

7th. That strongly impressed by a sense of the high value of the advantages that may result from the establishment of a permanent System of Cow Pox Inoculation amongst the Poor, we earnestly recommend to the consideration of the Court of Guardians, the propriety of granting, hereafter, a certain compensation to their Surgeons for any Pauper belonging to the City and its Hamlets, who shall be Inoculated for the Cow Pox, by them, in their respective districts.

RICH. LUBBOCK, M. D.

WARNER WRIGHT, M. D.

EDWARD RIGBY

P. M. MARTINEAU

JAMES KEYMER

WM. BACK

JAMES ROBINSON

WM. DALRYMPLE

WM. FELL RAND

WESTON STARKEY

SAML. S. DEACON.

And this Meeting doth unanimously approve of the Resolutions contained in such Report, and receives with the highest approbation the offer of the Medical Gentlemen to Inoculate the Poor for the Cow Pox at their own habitations.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED—That this Meeting being fully satisfied that the Prevention of a Disorder, so destructive

tive to human life as the Small Pox, can alone be effected by the means recommended by the Committee of Medical Gentlemen, will, as individuals, cheerfully concur in the measures proposed, both for the discontinuance of Inoculation of the Small Pox and the extension of the Vaccine Inoculation.

That this Meeting think it due to the Medical Gentlemen who composed the Committee, to express the high sense which they entertain of their humane and liberal conduct, in proposing and forwarding, by their zeal and ability, a measure so important to the public.

That Mr. Mayor, the Rev. the Dean, Mr. Prebendary Thurlow, the Ministers and Churchwardens of the different Parishes and Hamlets in this City and County, Robert Partridge, Esq. Wm. Herring, Esq. John Browne, Esq. John Gurney, Esq. Robert Plumpire, Esq. Francis Morse, Esq. Dr. Lubbock, Dr. Wright, Mr. Martineau, Mr. Keymer, Mr. Wm. Back, Mr. James Robinson, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. W. F. Rand, Mr. Sam. S. Deacon, Mr. Weston Starkey, Mr. Edward Booth, Mr. John Pitchford, Mr. Thomas Martineau, Mr. Nathaniel Bolingbroke, Mr. John Athow, and any other Gentlemen who may attend, be a Committee for carrying into effect the Resolutions of this Meeting.

And that the proceedings of this Meeting be inserted in the two Norwich Papers, and that 1000 Copies be printed and circulated.

EDWARD RIGBY, MAYOR.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Right Worshipful the Mayor, for the attention he has shewn to the important business of this Meeting, and for his conduct in the Chair.